

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

# FACTSHEET

## I. OVERVIEW

### Community Gardening Definition

Community garden is fundamentally a community building activity bringing neighbors together to steward (plan, plant, and maintain) open space in their neighborhood. Traditionally community gardens in Seattle include individual plots for which community members pay a small fee, while common areas in the garden are maintained by all plot holders. All maintenance is done by the gardeners.

### National Context

Community gardening is a nationwide movement—most major metropolitan areas host community gardens. Seattle is recognized as a leader and is one of the largest.

- Three management models—gardener organized, non-profit managed, municipally managed. Seattle is municipally managed but also relies on gardeners and the non-profit, P-Patch Trust. Research has shown that governmental support over the long term helps sustain community gardens. (Lawson, Laura, City Bountiful, A Century of Community Gardening in America, 2005)
- Two organizational types – allotment style, where gardeners pay a fee for a plot, and collective gardening.

### What is a P-Patch?

P-Patch is the name given to community gardens in Seattle that are managed by Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch Program. Members practice organic gardening techniques and plant a mix of food crops, flowers, herbs, fruiting bushes & trees.

### Basic Program Statistics

- 39 years old
- 76 P-Patches operating, 14 sites in active design/development, and 3 market gardens
- Approximately 23 Acres
- 2350 households have plots
- More than half of P-Patch community gardens are located in Southeast, Southwest and Central
- Program Areas
  - *Community Gardens* – 50 neighborhood-based community gardens
  - *Food security* -- 20 gardens focused largely on low income and immigrant communities; 38 food bank gardens and other giving opportunities
  - *Youth Gardening*—30 plots focused on youth 2011. The gardens are managed by neighborhood groups, gardeners, schools, daycares and afterschool programs
  - *Market Gardening* -- 3 market gardens offer low income people supplemental income and opportunities to connect with the larger community
- Staff- Community Garden Coordinators-6 fte and Levy Garden Development (temporary position-2fte)

### Supporting legislation

- Ordinances
  - 104475 --Establishing—P-Patch-purchase Picardo for the "... City's Community Garden Program ("P-Patch" Program)..."
  - 117100--\$650,000 for P-Patches city-wide (used for Thomas St)
  - 2008 Parks and Open Space Levy authorizes 2 million for the development of P-Patches and community gardens
- Resolutions
  - 28610—Council Mayor resolution to, among other things, promote "cooperation among such agencies as Parks..for community gardening.
  - 30194 –Adopting the P-Patch Program 2000-2005 Strategic Plan

### Public Access:

- All community gardens are open to the public and have a combination of community spaces that offer passive and active educational opportunities, these include:
  - perennial and demonstration areas,
  - orchards,
  - wildlife habitat and native planting areas,
  - food bank “giving” gardens.
  - honey bees
  - meeting and gathering spaces

### Partners:

- P-Patch Trust (12 Board Members)
- Community Gardeners
  - 2350 plot holders, 4700+ gardeners
  - 22,633 volunteer hours logged (equivalent to 11 full-time staff) valued at \$452,660 (\$20 hour)
- Seattle Housing Authority
- Lettuce Link

## II. GARDEN MANAGEMENT

### Staff Roles

- plot assignment, registration and collection of plot fees
- waiting list management
- property liaison, leasing, and interdepartmental facilitation
- connecting people and resources
- outreach
- conflict resolution
- leadership development
- garden development
- communication

### Annual Agreement

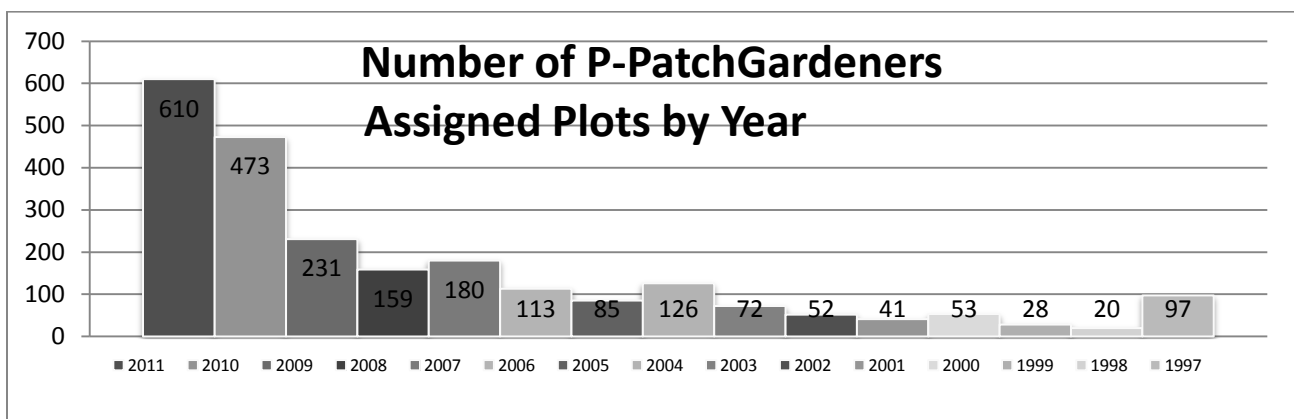
- Plot fee \$25 plus \$12 for each 100 sf., collective members pay a flat fee of \$10. Plot fee assistance is available upon request
- 8 volunteer hours
- year round plot utilization

### Plot Turnover and Assignment –

- Volunteer leadership work with Staff to assess plot use and compliance of requirements. 687 plots turned over in 2011.
- ***P-Patch community gardens are limited to Seattle Residents:***
  - Currently only 7 of the current 2350 gardeners live outside the city and are grandfathered in.
  - Staff waitlist and plot registration ensures that new gardeners are Seattle residents.
- Staff use [guidelines](#) to manage plot assignment. Tools include:
  - Waitlist
  - Balance for under-represented communities
  - Balance for neighborhood representation

#### ***Plot Turnover—how long have gardeners had plots?***

| 2011 | 2010 | Years            |
|------|------|------------------|
| 56%  | 44%  | 3 years or less  |
| 71%  | 66%  | 5 years or less  |
| 90%  | 86%  | 10 years or less |



**Waitlist Statistics for 2011-Average wait by P-Patch\*** 1154 people on waiting list at end of year 2011

| Number and percentage of P-Patches with Various Wait times  |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| 11  | 22% | Number of gardens w an average wait of less than one garden season                        |
| 26  | 40% | Number of gardens with an average wait of more than one to less than two garden seasons   |
| 13  | 26% | Number of gardens with an average wait of more than two to less than three garden seasons |
| 5   | 5%  | Number of gardens with an average wait of more than three but less four garden seasons    |
| *50 P-Patches have waitlists; the rest are P-Patches that are new, market gardeners or focused on low income and immigrant populations. |     |   |

- **Plot Sizes**

- Standard plot sizes depend on the circumstances of each garden.
- Staff and volunteer leaders evaluate demand and have opened additional gardening space at existing P-Patches:

| Standard Size<br>In square feet | No. of P-Patches  | No of plots | No. of gardeners at standard* | No. Below standard* | No. Above Standard* |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 400                             | 3 (includes large P-Patches, e.g. Picardo, and gardens focused on food security for immigrant families) | 337         | 83                            | 176                 | 36                  |
| 150 to 200                      | 23  | 1082        | 563                           | 215                 | 134                 |
| 100 or less                     | 39 (Most new gardens have smaller areas for gardening)  | 1017        | 885                           | 3                   | 61                  |
|                                 | Some P-Patches work collectively or are market gardens  |             |                               |                     |                     |

\*Sampling of 36 sites



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### III. COMMUNITY BENEFIT -- *P-Patch Community Gardens Give Back*

- **Public Use**
  - Gardeners hold community events—e.g. Interbay Plant Sale, Queen Anne Kids Day, Bradner Concert above the City
  - Gardeners actively engage the community—P-Patchers report that one to two non-gardeners are always visiting the P-Patch. Gardeners answer questions from the public.
- **Food Bank Donations** – more than 20,000 lbs of produce to food banks and hot meal programs in 2010
  - 9% of gardeners donate once a week, 40% monthly
  - 37 P-Patch community gardens have dedicated “giving gardens”
- **Community Volunteerism**
- **Stewardship and Investment in Public Land**
  - Successful community gardens require long-term investment by organic gardeners in soil, plants and social infrastructure that create the opportunity for public enjoyment and education.
  - Long-term stewards are the biggest donors of their time and money. This investment sustains P-Patch community gardens.
  - Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) awards in P-Patches—More than 90 in 21 years of NMF.
- **Education**
  - Long-term gardeners share and model organic gardening principles through direct education and demonstration.
  - P-Patch community gardeners are a source of green innovations; examples include:
    - water collection systems,
    - composting toilets,
    - green building materials,
    - reuse of organic and inorganic materials
    - green roofs

### IV. GARDENER DEMOGRAPHIC -- *P-Patch Community Gardening Encourages Inclusivity*

- Gardeners: 20% are people of color
- Income: 55% are low income
- 48% live in multifamily dwellings
- 77% have no gardening space where they live

### V. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dept of Neighborhoods – 6 (including one shared ownership with P-Patch Trust)</li><li>• Parks – 26(one shared ownership w/Trust)</li><li>• Dept of Transportation - 9</li><li>• City Light – 6</li><li>• Dept of Accounting and Finance—1</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seattle Housing Authority –12</li><li>• King County Metro - 2</li><li>• P-Patch Trust – 4 (shared ownership of two more)</li><li>• Private - 10</li></ul> |
|---|---|



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| Owner                                       | Build date | Location                           |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Department of Neighborhoods</b>          |            |                                    |
| Squire Park                                 | 1995       | 14th Ave / E Fir St                |
| Roosevelt                                   | 2003       | 7012 12th Ave NE                   |
| Brandon Orchard                             | 2004       | 47th Ave S / S Brandon             |
| Hawkins Garden                              | 2005       | E. Jefferson & MLK                 |
| Spring Street                               | 2009       | E. Spring and 25th Ave             |
| Judkins                                     | 1986       | 24th Ave S / S Norman St           |
| <b>Private – P-Patch Trust</b>              |            |                                    |
| Pinehurst                                   | 1976       | 12th Ave NE / NE 115th St          |
| Greenwood                                   | 1997       | 345 NW 88th St                     |
| Fremont                                     | 1998       | N 40th St / Woodland Park Ave N    |
| Hazel Heights                               | 2010       | Baker Ave NW & NW 42nd St          |
| <b>Department of Parks and Recreation</b>   |            |                                    |
| Picardo Farm                                | 1973       | 2600 NE 82nd St                    |
| Colman Park                                 | 1974       | 3098 S Grand St                    |
| Delridge                                    | 1974       | 5078 25th Ave SW                   |
| Interbay                                    | 1974       | 15th Ave W / W Armour St           |
| Jackson park                                | 1974       | 10th Ave NE / NE 133rd St          |
| Magnuson                                    | 1977       | 7500 Sandpoint Way                 |
| Eastlake                                    | 1981       | 2900 Fairview Ave E                |
| Good Shepherd                               | 1981       | 4698 Bagley Ave N                  |
| Bradner Gardens                             | 1987       | 29th Ave S / S Grand St            |
| Belltown                                    | 1994       | Elliott Ave / Vine St              |
| Queen Anne                                  | 1994       | 3rd Ave N / Lynn St                |
| Cascade                                     | 1996       | Minor Ave N / Thomas St            |
| Thomas St Gardens                           | 1996       | 1010 E Thomas St                   |
| Marra Farm                                  | 1997       | 4th Ave S / S Director St          |
| Queen Pea                                   | 2002       | 5th Ave N/ Blaine St               |
| Linden Orchard                              | 2003       | Linden Ave N / 67th St             |
| Longfellow Creek                            | 2003       | 25th Ave SW/ SW Thistle            |
| Thyme Patch                                 | 2003       | NW 58th St / 28th Ave NW           |
| Lincoln Park Annex (Solstice Park)          | 2004       | 7400 Fauntleroy Wy SW              |
| Oxbow                                       | 2004       | 6400 Corson Ave. SW                |
| Maple Leaf                                  | 2007       | 5th Ave NE & NE 103rd              |
| Marra Market                                | 2009       | 4th Ave S / S Director St          |
| Greenwood Park*                             | 2011       | Fremont & N 87th St                |
| Howell Collective                           | 2011       | 16th Ave & E. Howell               |
| Unpaving Paradise                           | 2011       | E. John St & Summit Ave E          |
| Hillman City                                | 1994       | 46th Ave S / S Lucile St           |
| <b>Seattle Department of Transportation</b> |            |                                    |
| Ravenna                                     | 1981       | 5200 Ravenna Ave NE                |
| Estelle                                     | 1990       | 3400 Rainier Ave S                 |
| Phinney Ridge                               | 1991       | 3rd Ave NW / NW 60th St            |
| Courtland Pl                                | 1999       | S Spokane St / 36th Ave S          |
| Mad - P                                     | 2001       | 30th Ave E / E Mercer St           |
| Pelican Tea Garden                          | 2001       | E Mercer St / 19th Ave E           |
| Beacon Bluff                                | 2002       | S Mass St at 15th Ave S            |
| Angel Morgan                                | 2004       | 42nd Ave. S/ S. Morgan             |
| Yesler Terrace Freeway                      | 2005       | I-5 / Main                         |
| Seattle City Light                          |            |                                    |
| Evanston                                    | 1974       | Evanston Ave N / N 102nd St        |
| Snoqualmie                                  | 1974       | 13th Ave S / S Snoqualmie St       |
| Thistle                                     | 1974       | M L King Jr Wy S / S Cloverdale St |

| Owner                                       | Build date                    | Location                                   |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Ferdinand                                   | 1982                          | Columbia Dr S / S Ferdinand St             |
| New Holly Youth & Family Garden             | 2000                          | 32nd Ave. S/ S Holly Pk Dr                 |
| New Holly Power Garden                      | 2003                          | Holly Park Drive S/ S Myrtle Pl            |
| <b>Department of Accounting and Finance</b> |                               |  |
| Hillside                                    | 2001                          | MLK Jr Wy S / S McClellan St               |
| <b>Metro</b>                                |                               |  |
| University District                         | 1976                          | 8th Ave NE/NE 40th St                      |
| Greg's Garden                               | 1999                          | 14th Ave NW / NW 54th St                   |
| <b>Private</b>                              |                               |  |
| Republican                                  | 1986                          | 20th Ave E / E Republican St               |
| Burke Gilman Gardens                        | 1989                          | 5200 Mithun PL NE                          |
| University Heights                          | 1991                          | 5031 University Way NE                     |
| Idamia Garden                               | 1994                          | E Madison St / Lake Washington Bv E        |
| Climbing Water                              | 2006                          | Dearborn & Hiawatha                        |
| Shiga's Garden                              | 2010                          | 5522 University Way                        |
| Ballard                                     | 1976                          | 24th Ave NW / NW 85th St                   |
| Haller lake                                 | 1998                          | 13045 1st Ave NE                           |
| Immaculate                                  | 1998                          | 18th Ave E / E Columbia St                 |
| West Genesee                                | 2009                          | SW Genessee & 42nd Ave SW                  |
| <b>Seattle Housing Authority</b>            |                               |  |
| Yesler Terrace Ballpark Garden              | 1995                          | 8th Ave S / S Washington St                |
| Yesler Terrace Playground Garden            | 1995                          | 10th Ave S / S Main St                     |
| High Point. Juneau Community Garden         | 1998                          | 32nd Ave SW / SW Juneau St                 |
| High Point Juneau Market Garden             | 1999                          | 32rd Ave SW / SW Juneau St                 |
| New Holly 29th Ave Garden                   | 2001                          | 29th Ave S / S Brighton St                 |
| New Holly Lucky Garden                      | 2001                          | Shaffer Ave S / S Holly St                 |
| New Holly Rockery Community Garden          | 2005                          | Holly Park Dr S & S 40th                   |
| New Holly Rockery Market Garden             | 2005                          | Holly Park Dr S & S 40th                   |
| Rainier Vista Snoqualmie Park Senior Garden | 2006                          | 29th Ave S and S Snoqualmie St             |
|   |                               | S Lilac St and Martin Luther King Jr Way S |
| Rainier Vista Dakota Park                   | 2008                          |  |
| High Point MacArthur Lane                   | 2009                          | SW MacArthur Ln & SW Juneau St             |
| High Pont Commons Park                      | 2009                          | 31st Ave SW & SW Raymond St                |
| <b>Site statistics</b>                      |                               |  |
| Oldest                                      | Picardo – 2.5 acres           | Newest- <b>Greenwood Park 2011</b>         |
| Largest                                     | Thistle—3+acres               | No of Sites w/ accessible raised beds-25   |
| Smallest                                    | <b>Pelican Tea Collective</b> |  |

